

OVERVIEW OF REASONS TO BELIEVE'S TESTABLE CREATION MODEL

Using Genesis 1 as an Outline

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Note: All Scripture references are from the New International Version, unless otherwise noted. Italics have been added to Scripture references in some places for emphasis.

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

(which *can* and *should* be tested)

1. The Bible (including Genesis 1-11) is the error-free word of God.

“We believe the Bible (the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is the Word of God, written. As a "God-breathed" revelation, it is thus verbally inspired and completely without error (historically, scientifically, morally, and spiritually) in its original writings. . . The Bible is therefore our supreme and final authority in all matters that it addresses.” (Reasons To Believe Statement of Faith)

“We affirm that Genesis 1-11 is factual, as is the rest of the book. We deny that the teachings of Genesis 1-11 are mythical and that scientific hypotheses about earth history or the origin of humanity may be invoked to overthrow what Scripture teaches about creation.” (International Council on Biblical Inerrancy)

2. The creation account of Genesis 1 follows a basic chronology, although occasionally it organizes information in a topical manner (e.g., Creation Day 5 describes God’s creative activity in the seas. Day 6 describes His creation on land.).

3. The record of nature is a reliable and trustworthy revelation from God.

“We believe that the physical universe, the realm of nature, is the visible creation of God. It declares God's existence and gives a trustworthy revelation of God's character and purpose. In Scripture, God declares that through His creation all humanity recognizes His existence, power, glory, and wisdom. An honest study of nature□ its physical, biological, and social aspects□ can prove useful in a person's search for truth.” (Reasons To Believe Statement of Faith)

4. The Bible will not contradict the record of nature.

“Properly understood, God's Word (Scripture) and God's world (nature), as two revelations (one verbal, one physical) from the same God, will never contradict each other.” (Reasons To Believe Statement of Faith)

“We affirm the harmony of special (Scripture) with general (nature) revelation and therefore of biblical teaching with the facts of nature. We deny that any genuine scientific facts are inconsistent with the true meaning of any passage of Scripture.” (International Council on Biblical Inerrancy)

5. The Bible is primarily organized around a central theological purpose:

God communicates His plan for human redemption from a fallen nature through His Son, Jesus Christ. Likewise, the universe is designed for a central purpose, namely the benefit of humans.

6. The Bible contains only a selective summary in its description of God's creation miracles because its content focuses on the theme of human redemption (e.g., no mention of dinosaurs, bi-pedal primates, quantum mechanics or the existence of the planet Jupiter).

The record of nature is also selective in that it does not give complete data about such issues as the nature of God, how man can be reconciled to God, the meaning of life, moral guidelines, etc.

7. God gives man the privilege to carefully fill in the details through gradual exploration and increased understanding of His creation.

“We affirm that since God is the author of all truth, all truths, biblical and extra-biblical, are consistent and cohere, and that the Bible speaks truth when it touches on matters pertaining to nature, history, or anything else. We further affirm that in some cases extra-biblical data have value for clarifying what Scripture teaches, and for prompting correction of faulty interpretations. We deny that extra-biblical views ever disprove the teaching of Scripture or hold priority over it. (International Council on Biblical Inerrancy)

Note: For an in-depth look at dual revelation, please read “Revelation Times Two?” by Kenneth Samples, in *FACTS for FAITH*, issue 2, Quarter 2, 2000.

The Creation of the Universe

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created [*bara*] the heavens and the earth.”

What is a *bara* creation?

- *bara*: to create; emphasizes the initiation of the object and implies no previous existence; used in Genesis 1 to refer to an act that only God can do, one that is outside of human ability; creation by divine fiat. [Robert Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), #278.]

“In the beginning...” – Time has a beginning.

- Related Scriptures:

2 Timothy 1:9 “who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before *the beginning of time*,”

Titus 1:2 “a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the *beginning of time*,”

Hebrews 1:10 “He also says, ‘In the *beginning*, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.’”

Proverbs 8:22-23 “The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, *from the beginning*, before the world began.”

John 17:24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me *before the creation of the world*.”

Ephesians 1:4 “For he chose us in him *before the creation of the world* to be holy and blameless in his sight...”

1 Peter 1:20 “He was chosen *before the creation of the world*, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”

“God created the heavens and the earth” – Everything that exists (all the matter in the universe) has a beginning.

- Related Scripture:

Genesis 14:19 “and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, *Creator of heaven and earth.*”

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Time has a beginning.
2. Matter and energy have a beginning.

“God created the heavens and the earth” – God created the stars, sun, Earth and moon.

- Related Scriptures:

Genesis 1:16 “God made *two great lights*—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the *stars.*”

Job 9:9 “He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the *constellations* of the south.”

Job 26:7 “He *spreads out the northern skies* over empty space; he *suspends the earth over nothing.*”

Psalms 8:3 “When I consider your *heavens*, the work of your fingers, the *moon* and the *stars*, which you have set in place...”

Psalms 74:16 “The day is yours, and yours also the night; you established the *sun* and *moon.*”

Psalms 102:25 “In the beginning you laid the foundations of the *earth*, and the *heavens* are the work of your hands.”

Isaiah 37:16 ““O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have *made heaven and earth.*””

Isaiah 40:26 “Lift your eyes and look to the *heavens*: Who created all these? He who brings out the *starry host* one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”

Isaiah 51:16 “I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand—I who *set the heavens in place*, who *laid the foundations of the earth*, and who say to Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

Hebrews 1:10 “He also says, ‘In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the *foundations of the earth*, and *the heavens* are the work of your hands.’”

Creation reflects the nature of God.

- Related Scriptures:

Psalms 19:1-6 “The *heavens declare the glory of God*; the *skies proclaim the work of his hands*. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they *display knowledge*. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.”

Psalms 33:5 “The LORD loves righteousness and justice; *the earth is full of his unfailing love*.”

Psalms 50:6 “And the *heavens proclaim his righteousness*, for God himself is judge.”

Psalms 97:6 “The *heavens proclaim his righteousness*, and all the peoples see his glory.”

Romans 1:20 “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature— have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

- Scientific Predictions:

1. The universe displays design.
2. The universe’s design is for the benefit of man's existence on earth.

“God created” – Time, matter, space and energy came into existence through the power of a *transcendent* being (God) who is responsible for its design.

What does “transcendent” mean?

God is independent of His creation and is not limited by the boundaries of space and time. As a result, God has the ability to create and remove His creation at will.

- Related Scriptures:

Job 38:4-7 [God speaking:] “‘Where were you *when I laid the earth’s foundation*? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?’”

Proverbs 3:19 “By wisdom *the LORD laid the earth’s foundations*, by understanding *he set the heavens in place*,”

Isaiah 40:25-26 “‘To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?’ says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to *the heavens: Who created all these*? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. *Because of his great power and mighty strength*, not one of them is missing.”

Isaiah 45:18 “For this is what the LORD says—he who *created the heavens*, he is God; he who fashioned and *made the earth*, he founded it...”

Isaiah 48:13 “My own hand *laid the foundations of the earth*, and my right hand *spread out the heavens*; when I summon them, they all stand up together.”

John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. *Through him all things were made*; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

Hebrews 11:3 “By faith we understand that the universe was *formed at God’s command*, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

God stretched out the heavens (in the past) and continues to stretch them out today.

- Related Scriptures:

Isaiah 42:5 “This is what God the LORD says—he who created the heavens and *stretched them out*, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it.”

Isaiah 44:24 “‘This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone *stretched out the heavens*, who spread out the earth by myself...”

Isaiah 45:12 “It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands *stretched out the heavens*; I marshaled their starry hosts.”

Jeremiah 10:12 “But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and *stretched out the heavens* by his understanding.”

God created the universe to be ordered by certain natural laws (including decay and death).

○ Related Scriptures:

Genesis 1:16 “God made two great lights—the *greater light* to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the *stars*.” [The existence of stars demonstrates that the laws of physics have been in place since very early in the history of creation.]

Genesis 2:16 “And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are *free to eat from any tree* in the garden . . .’” (God’s command to the man to eat plants implies that Adam would at least require the death of plant parts and that he had the ability to digest plants. Such processes demonstrate that the laws of physics were established long before Adam was created.)

Jeremiah 33:25-26 “This is what the LORD says: ‘If I have not established my covenant with day and night and the *fixed laws of heaven and earth*, then I will reject the descendants of Jacob and David my servant and will not choose one of his sons to rule over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have compassion on them.’”

Romans 8:20-23 “For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its *bondage to decay* and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God We know that the *whole creation has been groaning* as in the pains of childbirth *right up to the present time*. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

○ **Scientific Predictions:**

1. The universe has a transcendent cause.
2. The universe is expanding.
3. The laws of physics were fixed from a very early point in the universe’s history, possibly since the beginning.

Conditions on the Early Earth

Genesis 1:2

“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

“Now the *earth* . . .” – Verse 2 describes the condition of the earth before God prepared it to sustain and benefit the human race.

- The text shifts the focus of the creation account from the universe to describe God’s creative acts on Earth to prepare the land for human life (because humans are the focus of his plan of redemption).
- Related Scripture:

Isaiah 45:18 “For this is what the LORD says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but *formed it to be inhabited*—he says: ‘I am the LORD, and there is no other.’”

“Now the earth was *formless and empty* . . .” – Early Earth was literally “without useful space” and “without useful purpose.”

“ . . . *darkness* was over the surface of the deep . . .” – Early Earth was dark and covered with water.

- Related Scriptures:

Job 38:9 [Where were you . . .] “when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick *darkness*?”

Psalms 24:1-2 “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and *established it upon the waters*.”

Psalms 104:5-6 “He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. You *covered it with the deep* as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.”

... the Spirit of God was *hovering* over the waters ... ” – God the Holy Spirit was nurturing early Earth in order to prepare it to sustain life.

- Related Scripture:

Deut. 32:10-11 “In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and *hovers* over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.”

Earth is “ancient.”

- Related Scriptures:

Proverbs 8:22 “The LORD brought me [wisdom] forth as the first of his works, *before his deeds of old.*”

Habbakuk 3:6 “He stood, and shook the earth; he looked, and made the nations tremble. The *ancient mountains* crumbled and the *age-old hills* collapsed. His ways are eternal.”

2 Peter 3:5 “But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water.”

God compares His eternal being and His covenants to the endurance of creation.

- Related Scriptures:

Psalms 72:5-7 “[God] will *endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon*, through all generations. He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.”

Psalms 89:35-37 ““Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness—and I will not lie to David—that his line will continue forever and his throne *endure before me like the sun*; it will be *established forever like the moon*, the faithful witness in the sky.””

Psalms 119:89-91 “Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; *you established the earth, and it endures*. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.”

Psalms 125:1-2 “Those who trust in the LORD are *like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever*. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so *the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore.*”

Dan. 12:3 “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, *like the stars for ever and ever.*”

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Earth is old.
2. The surface of early Earth was covered with water.
3. Early Earth was shrouded in darkness.
4. Early Earth was empty of life.
5. Early Earth was unsuitable for life.
6. Life appeared early in Earth's history.
7. Life appeared under hostile conditions.
8. Life appeared suddenly.
9. Early life showed features of design.
10. The purpose of the design in the universe is to sustain and benefit human life on Earth.

CREATION DAY 1

Differentiation of Day and Night

Genesis 1:3-5

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.
God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.
God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.”
And there was evening, and there was morning—
the first day.

The light on the surface of Earth became visible enough to differentiate between “night” and “day” on Creation Day 1.

- The text does not say that “light” was *created* for the first time on Creation Day 1. The text literally reads, “Let the light be [*haya*] . . .” in other words, “Let the light be seen . . .”
- The verb *haya* is defined as the following: *to be, to become, to exist, to happen*; the common verb of being, referring to state of being, *change of state*, existence, and the occurring of events, or even possession.

God was involved in the creation of the atmosphere.

- Related Scriptures:

Psalms 104:1-2 “Praise the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent.”

Proverbs 8:27 “I was there when he *set the heavens in place*, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep.”

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Early in Earth’s history, the atmosphere changed so that day and night could be differentiated.

CREATION DAY 2

The Water Cycle Established

Genesis 1:6-8

And God said, “Let there be [*haya*] an expanse between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made [*asa*] the expanse and separated the water under the expanse from the water above it. And it was so. God called the expanse “sky.”

And there was evening, and there was morning—
the second day.

What is an *asa* creation?

asa: to do or to make in a general sense; a generic of description of action which is much broader in scope to *bara*; primarily concerned with the fashioning of an object with little concern for special nuances. [Robert Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol. 2 (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), #1708.]

God established Earth’s atmosphere and water cycle on Creation Day 2.

- Related Scriptures:

Psalms 104:2-4 “[God] wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of *his upper chambers on their waters*. *He makes the clouds* his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind. *He makes winds* his messengers, flames of fire his servants.”

Psalms 104:13 “*He waters the mountains from his upper chambers*; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work.”

Psalms 148:4, 8 “Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies . . . lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding”

Proverbs 3:20 “by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.”

Proverbs 8:27-28 “I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when *he established the clouds* above and fixed securely the foundations of the deep.”

God maintains the stability of the water cycle on Earth.

- Related Scriptures:

Job 36:27-33 “*He draws up the drops of water, which distill as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on mankind. Who can understand how he spreads out the clouds, how he thunders from his pavilion? See how he scatters his lightning about him, bathing the depths of the sea. This is the way he governs the nations and provides food in abundance. He fills his hands with lightning and commands it to strike its mark. His thunder announces the coming storm; even the cattle make known its approach.*”

Job 37:3-13 *He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven and sends it to the ends of the earth. After that comes the sound of his roar; he thunders with his majestic voice. When his voice resounds, he holds nothing back. God’s voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth,’ and to the rain shower, ‘Be a mighty downpour.’ So that all men he has made may know his work, he stops every man from his labor. The animals take cover; they remain in their dens. The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds. The breath of God produces ice, and the broad waters become frozen. He loads the clouds with moisture; he scatters his lightning through them. At his direction they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do whatever he commands them. He brings the clouds to punish men, or to water his earth and show his love.*

Job 38:8-9 “Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, *when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness...*”

Job 38:22-30 ““Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle? What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed, or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth? Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain, and a path for the thunderstorm, to water a land where no man lives, a desert with no one in it, to satisfy a desolate wasteland and make it sprout with grass? Does the rain have a father? Who fathers the drops of dew? From whose womb comes the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens when the waters become hard as stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen?””

- Scientific Predictions:

1. Earth’s atmosphere shows design.
2. Earth’s water cycle is stable.

CREATION DAY 3

The Land and Plants Appear

Genesis 1:9-13

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.”
And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.”
And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds.
And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening, and there was morning—
the third day.

God reveals the land by separating the water.

- The text does not say that “dry ground” was created for the first time on Creation Day 3. The text literally reads, “let dry ground become visible” from the verb *ra’ ha*, which means *to become visible, appear, show oneself*.
- The meaning of this verb allows for the possibility that God could have used natural forces, at least in part, to bring about the formation of land masses.
- Related Scriptures:

Psalm 104:5-9 “He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But *at your rebuke the waters fled*, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; *they flowed over the mountains*, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. *You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth.*”

Proverbs 8:29 “when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.”

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Land masses were formed by the land being raised from under the sea.
2. Land masses may have been formed, at least in part, through natural processes.
3. Land masses formed with relative rapidity.
4. Earth has not been completely covered with water since its primordial state.

Plants appeared on the land.

- The text does not say that plants were created for the first time on Creation Day 3. The text literally reads, “let the land become green [*dasha*]”
- The meaning of this verb allows the possibility that God could have used natural forces, at least in part, to bring about the appearance of plants.
- Related Scriptures:

Psalms 104:14-17 “*He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread that sustains his heart. The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted. There the birds make their nests; the stork has its home in the pine trees.*”

Genesis 1:29-30 “Then God said, “I give you every *seed-bearing plant* on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has *fruit with seed* in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every *green plant for food.*” And it was so.”

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Plants appeared on the land at the time of or before the transformation of Earth’s atmosphere (Creation Day 4).
2. Plants appeared on the land at the time of or before the appearance of fish and sea mammals (Creation Day 5).
3. Plants formed the basis of the food chain.
4. The appearance of land plants may have resulted, at least in part, from natural processes.

CREATION DAY 4

The Transformation of the Earth's Atmosphere

Genesis 1:14-19

And God said, “Let there be [*haya*] lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth.”

And it was so.

God made [*asa*] two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.

And there was evening, and there was morning—
the fourth day.

The sun, moon, and stars begin to mark Earth's days, years, and seasons.

- The text does not say that “light” was *created* for the first time on Creation Day 4. The text literally reads, “Let the lights be [*haya*]. . . .” In other words, “Let the lights in the sky be seen.”
- The verb *haya* is defined as follows: *to be, to become, to exist, to happen*; the common verb of being, referring to state of being, *change of state*, existence, and the occurring of events, or even possession.
- Related Scriptures:

Psalms 104:19-23 “The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down. You bring darkness, it becomes *night*, and all the beasts of the forest prowl. The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. The sun rises, and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens. Then man goes out to his work, to his labor until evening.”

Psalms 148:3-6 “Praise [the LORD], sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He set them in place forever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.

Psalm 136:7-9 “[God] who made the great lights—His love endures forever. the sun to govern the day, His love endures forever. the moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever.”

○ **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Earth’s atmosphere became transparent, so that the sun, moon and stars are easily visible.
2. The transformation of Earth’s atmosphere occurred after the land formation and the appearance of plants (Creation Day 3).
3. Natural processes may have played a role in the transformation of Earth’s atmosphere.
4. The visibility of the sun and moon is needed in order to regulate the activity of advanced animal life.

CREATION DAY 5

The Creation of Sea Animals and Birds

Genesis 1:20-23

And God said, “Let the water teem [*sheres*] with living creatures [*nephesh*], and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky.” So God created [*bara*] the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind.
And God saw that it was good.

God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.”

And there was evening, and there was morning—
the fifth day.

God created three new types of animals on Creation Day 5.

- The text uses the word *bara* to alert the reader that God’s creation of these animals are special, direct and miraculous creations of God.
- *bara* means to create; emphasizes the initiation of the object and implies no previous existence; used in Genesis 1 to refer to an act that only God can do, one that is outside of human ability; creation by divine fiat. [Robert Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, and Bruce Waltke, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, vol. 1 (Chicago: Moody Press, 1980), #278.]
 1. God created the small “swarming” sea animals (*sheres*).
 2. God created the “soulish” sea mammals (*nephesh*).
 - The word *nephesh* in this context refers to animals who have a soul, which can include limited intelligence, emotions and a will.
 3. God created birds.

- Related Scripture:

Genesis 2:19-20a “Now the *LORD God* had formed [yatsar] out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all *the birds of the air*. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, *the birds of the air* and all the beasts of the field.”

yatsar: to be forged, usually from existing material (this could point to biochemical or morphological similarities to previous creations); when God is seen as the Creator or Maker, the focus is on His planning and forming the creation as a skilled craftsman.

Psalms 104:24-25 “How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is *the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number*—living things both large and small.”

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Fish and sea mammals (e.g. whales, dolphins) made a sudden appearance in the fossil record.
2. Sea mammals (e.g. whales, dolphins) were introduced in the fossil record after the fish.
3. Sea mammals express a degree of intelligence, will, and emotions.
4. Birds make a sudden appearance in the fossil record.
5. Birds show design for their purpose and habitat.
6. Birds express a degree of intelligence, will, and emotions.

CREATION DAY 6

The Creation of Selected Land Animals and Humans

Genesis 1:24-28, 31

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures [*nephesh*] according to their kinds: livestock [*behema*], creatures that move along the ground [*remes*], and wild animals [*hayya*], each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made [*asa*] the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds.

And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make [*asa*] man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created [*bara*] man in his own image, in the image of God he created [*bara*] him; male and female he created [*bara*] them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

God created three new types of “soulish” land mammals on Creation Day 6.

- God created the “livestock” (*behema*). This is a broad term referring to four-legged land mammals, usually those that can be domesticated such as herds of cattle and goats.
- God created the “creatures that move along the ground” (*remes*). This refers to short-legged land mammals, and possibly small reptiles.
- God created the “wild animals” (*hayya*). The term refers to wild animals (in contrast to domestic animals).

- Related Scripture:

Genesis 2:19-20a “Now the *LORD God* had formed [yatsar] out of the ground all the *beasts of the field* and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to *all the livestock*, the birds of the air and *all the beasts of the field*.”

Psalm 104:24-25 “How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; ***Psalm 104:27*** “These [animals] all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.” (The context helps us know that the events described here occurred on Creation Day 5 and/or Day 6.)

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Land mammals make a sudden appearance in the fossil record.
2. Land mammals express a degree of intelligence, will, and emotions.
3. Land mammals show design for their purpose and habitat.
4. Animal extinction is followed by new creations.

Creation of the first man and woman were God’s crowning act of creation week.

- Only human beings are created in the “image of God” which makes them distinct from the rest of God’s creation. Only human beings have a “spiritual” capacity, namely the ability to have a relationship with God.
- Human beings are both an *asa* (fashioned) creation and a *bara* (created from no prior existence) creation.
- Related Scriptures:

Genesis 2:7 “the *LORD God* formed [yatsar] the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the *breath of life*, and the man became a living being.”

yatsar: to be forged, usually from existing material (this could point to woman’s biochemical and morphological similarities with man); when God is seen as the Creator or Maker, the focus is on His planning and forming the creation as a skilled craftsman.

Genesis 2:8 “Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.”

Genesis 2:20b-22 “But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD *God made [banah] a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man*, and he brought her to the man.” (literally, “God made woman out of the *side* taken out man...”)

banah: to make, build, rebuild, establish

Psalms 8:3-8 “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? *You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings* and crowned him with glory and honor. *You made him ruler over the works of your hands*; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.”

Are biblical genealogies complete or abbreviated?

- **Genesis 5:5** “When Seth had lived 105 years, he became the father [*yalad*] of Enosh.”

yalad: to become the father of, cause to come to birth; does not necessarily point to the generation immediately following; ancestor of all who will be descended from this child.

- Two examples of abbreviated biblical genealogies:

1. 1 Chronicles 6:13-14 contrasted with Ezra 7:1-5
2. 1 Chronicles 3:11-12 contrasted with Matthew 1:8-9

- **Scientific Predictions:**

1. Humans share similarities with other creatures (because humans are *asa* creations and they share a common Designer).
2. Humans make a sudden appearance in the fossil record.
3. Advanced human culture makes a sudden appearance.
4. Appearance of spiritual activity coincides with the appearance of humans.
5. Human origins are traceable to one man and one woman.
6. Humans origin is recent (~10,000 to 100,000 years ago).

CREATION DAY 7

God Rests from His Creation Acts

Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating [*bara*] that he had done [*asa*].

God has completed His creative acts for this creation week.

- No “evening and morning” phrase is attached to Creation Day 7.
- Related Scriptures:

Exodus 20:11 “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he *rested on the seventh day*. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Hebrews 4:4 “For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “And on the *seventh day God rested from all his work*.”

At some point in the future, the heavens and earth will come to an end.

- Related Scriptures:

Psalms 102:25-27 “In the beginning you laid the foundations of the *earth*, and the *heavens* are the work of your hands. *They will perish*, but you remain; they will all *wear out like a garment*. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”

Isaiah 34:4 All the *stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll*; all the starry host will *fall like withered leaves* from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.

Isaiah 51:6 “Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; *the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment* and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.”

Isaiah 54:10 “Though the *mountains be shaken and the hills be removed*, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.”

Isaiah 60:19-20 “The *sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you*, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your *sun will never set again*, and your *moon will wane no more*; the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.”

Matthew 24:35 “*Heaven and earth will pass away*, but my words will never pass away.”

2 Peter 3:10-13 “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; *the elements will be destroyed by fire*, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since *everything will be destroyed in this way*, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the *destruction of the heavens by fire*, and the *elements will melt in the heat*. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”

○ **Scientific Predictions:**

1. No new species will be introduced after the appearance of humans in the fossil record.
2. When existing species die out, they will not be replaced with new ones.
3. The universe will come to an end.
4. The earth will come to an end.

THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH

God's Next Creation Week?

Revelation 21:1-2

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

At some point in the future, God will begin to create again when he creates the “new heavens” and “new earth.”

- Related Scripture:

Isaiah 66:22 “‘As the *new heavens and the new earth that I make* will endure before me,” declares the LORD, ‘so will your name and descendants endure.’”

Related Scriptures describing the physical characteristics of the “next” creation:

Isaiah 65:17-25 “‘Behold, *I will create new heavens and a new earth*. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,’ says the LORD.”

Romans 8:18-23 “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that *the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God*. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, *the redemption of our bodies*.”

1 Corinthians 2:9-10a “However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, *no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him*”—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

1 John 2:17 “The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God *lives forever*.”

Revelation 21:4 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be *no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away*.”

- “Death” and “pain” are the result of the 2nd law of thermodynamics (entropy).

Revelation 21:16-17 “The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be *12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long*. He measured its *wall and it was 144 cubits thick*, by man’s measurement, which the angel was using.”

- Stadia: a unit of measurement; 1 stade = 200 yards
- Cubit: a unit of measurement; 1 cubit = 17 1/2” to 18”
- This description of the new creation is impossible according to the present law of gravity.
- **Scientific Predictions:**
 1. The laws of physics of this universe will someday come to an end and be replaced with different laws of physics (e.g., no pain, no death, no gravity).
 2. There will be some continuity between the human body of this creation and the human body in the next creation.
 3. There will also be some discontinuity between the human body of this creation and the human body in the next creation (e.g., not capable of dying, spiritual capacity similar to Christ’s resurrection body).